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A SUSPECTED NOVA IN N. G. C. 2841

A photograph, with an exposure of two hours, made at the 25-foot focus of the 60-inch reflector on February 19, 1912, shows a relatively bright nebulous star in the spiral nebula N. G. C. 2841 that does not appear on earlier and later plates made at the Lick Observatory. The object is approximately 50″ west and 20″ north of the nucleus of the spiral; it is shown distinctly in the reproduction in the *Astrophysical Journal, 46,* Plate V a, 1917 (*Mt. Wilson Contr.,* No. 132). Professor Curtis independently found the star from an examination of the published photographs. He writes that on plates made with the Crossley reflector on April 17, 1901 (reproduced in *Lick Publication, 8,* Plate 19), and November 19, 1914, no trace of the star is seen. Observations will be continued when the spiral comes into position again.

FRANCIS G. PEASE.

A FAINT NOVA IN THE ANDROMEDA NEBULA.

Two photographs made with the 60-inch reflector on Sept. 11, 1917, show a new star of magnitude 17.5 at a distance of 10′ from the center of the Andromeda Nebula (N. G. C. 224.) The approximate position with respect to the nucleus of the nebula is

$$\Delta\alpha = +360''; \qquad \Delta\delta = +480''$$

An eighteenth magnitude companion is south 5″ and west 2″.

The star does not appear on a plate made by Mr. Pease August 21, 1917, and at that time must have been fainter than magnitude 19. No trace of it is found on any of the plates of longer exposure listed by Mr. Ritchey in a preceding note. A photograph kindly made by Mr. Ritchey on Sept. 17, 1917, for the purpose of confirmation, shows the star to have decreased about half a magnitude in six days.

HARLOW SHAPLEY.

NOTE ON THE MAGNITUDES OF NOVAE IN SPIRAL NEBULAE.

Since Ritchey's discovery of the nova in N. G. C. 6946, the number of temporary stars known to have occurred in nebulae has increased so rapidly that an opportunity is afforded of making preliminary use of relative magnitudes in estimating the order of the distances of spiral systems. The results can hope only to be suggestive, but any data will be welcome that bear directly on